

CLAIMS

1. A bearing arrangement comprising:
two bearing assemblies both located on the same
5 axis;
each bearing assembly comprising two parts in
contact during their relative rotation;
at each assembly the contact taking place in a
respective plane;
10 characterised in that one of the assemblies allows
resilient displacement of its contact plane and the
other of the assemblies is relatively rigid for
preventing substantial displacement of its contact
plane.
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2. A bearing arrangement as claimed in claim 1
wherein the displacement of the contact plane is
allowed to take place only in a direction substantially
parallel to the axis.
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3. A bearing arrangement comprising:
two bearing assemblies both located on the same
axis;
each bearing assembly comprising two parts in
25 contact during their relative rotation;
at each assembly the contact taking place in a
respective plane;
characterised in that at least one of the
assemblies allows resilient displacement of its contact
30 plane in a direction parallel to the axis.
4. A bearing arrangement as claimed in any of claims
1 to 3 wherein the two parts of each of the bearing
assemblies include a female part having a recess or

aperture and a male part acceptable into the recess or aperture.

5. A bearing arrangement as claimed in any one of
5 claims 1 to 3 wherein, at at least one of the said two
assemblies the contact is sliding contact.

6. A bearing arrangement as claimed in claim 5
wherein the contact is between the female and the male
10 parts of the bearing assembly or assemblies and is at
discrete locations in the plane.

7. A bearing arrangement as claimed in claim 6
wherein the discrete locations are provided by a non-
15 circular recess or aperture (e.g. triangular or
triangular) in the female part co-operating with a
circular (for example spheroidal or conical) male part,
or are provided by a circular (e.g. conical or
straight-sided) recess or aperture in the female part
20 co-operating with a non-circular (e.g. triangular) male
part.

8. A bearing arrangement as claimed in claims 1 to 7
wherein at least one of the two parts is formed of a
25 plastics material.

9. A bearing arrangement as claimed in claim 8
wherein the plastics material is formed as an insert
within an outer collar.

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10. A bearing arrangement as claimed in any one of
claims 1 to 3 wherein the contact is rolling contact
and the parts include a ball race.

11. A bearing arrangement as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the resilient displacement of the plane is provided by a resiliently movable female part.

5 12. A bearing arrangement as claimed in claim 11 wherein the female part includes a planar spring support.

10 13. A measurement probe support having a pivot including a bearing arrangement according to any one of claims 1 to 12.

14. A support for a measurement probe comprising an articulatable wrist providing two axes of rotation for the probe, at a first axis there being provided a bearing arrangement as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 10, the bearing arrangement being connected to a spindle having an extension extending beyond the bearing arrangement in the direction of the first axis.

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15. A support for a measurement probe as claimed in claim 14 wherein the extension is connected to a further bearing arrangement providing a second axis of rotation for the probe, transverse to the first axis.

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16. A support for a measurement probe as claimed in claim 15 wherein power and signal paths are provided and at least one of the paths crosses a rotary coupling disposed about the first axis.

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17. A support for a measurement probe as claimed in any one of claims 14 to 16 wherein the said bearing arrangement comprises a ball in a recess and the extension extends beyond the ball.